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Amendments to the drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1 and 7(b). In FIG. 1, block 10 has been labeled "STORAGE MEDIUM" and block 11 has been labeled "STORAGE MEDIUM READING SECTION" as taught in the specification. In FIG. 7(b), step S210 has been amended to read "DELETE TRANSMITTED IMAGE DATA", as provided on page 26, lines 6-7 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

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REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application.

In response to the drawing objections, replacement sheets of FIGS. 1 and 7(b) are provided, in which text labels for blocks 10 and 11 have been corrected in FIG. 1, and an appropriate text label is provided for step S210 in FIG. 7(b). No new matter is added. Approval of the replacement drawing sheets is respectfully requested.

In the specification, in view of the drawing corrections, many of the objections have been obviated. On page 13, line 23, the specification has been amended to indicate that the storage medium corresponds to reference numeral 10, and the storage medium reading section corresponds to reference numeral 11. Also, corrections have been made at page 17, line 17 and page 19, line 23, as noted by the Examiner. No new matter is added. The amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,449,056 to Mishima et al. (hereinafter "Mishima") in view of U.S. Patent 4,573,083 to Shimizu. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mishima in view of Shimizu, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,216,520 to Omura et al. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mishima in view of Shimizu, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,055,945 to Oguma et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Mishima is directed to an image formation apparatus in which the capacity of read image data is counted and displayed so that the user can know how much free capacity is required to allow the image to be formed (see column 2, lines 51-54). FIG. 13, as cited in the Office Action, is a flow chart illustrating a procedure by which CPU 203 controls a memory unit 30. According to a job registration process (step 308), the capacity of image data of a job n is provided as $CAPA(n)$, where $CAPA(n)$ is compared to the available space $SPACE(N)$, i.e., the amount of free memory capacity (see column 14, lines 50-59). If the available space $SPACE(N)$ is less than

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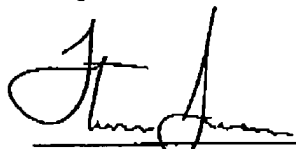
CAPA(n), then a full-memory process is effected at step 3088 (see FIG. 14), and a time at which sufficient memory space will be available for processing the job is calculated (see FIG. 18). For example, as shown in FIGS. 23 and 24, the completion times of various jobs are displayed.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that Mishima does not disclose a "timer section for timing the lapse of the waiting period." The Shimizu reference was cited for teaching a "timer section" allegedly for measuring a period of unavailability (see column 2, line 63 to column 3, line 3 of Shimizu).

As indicated in the Office Action, Mishima does not teach or suggest a timer section for timing the lapse of a waiting period, as recited in claims 1, 12, and 13. Instead, Mishima discloses a procedure whereby the time for obtaining sufficient free memory space to process a job is calculated according to the procedure illustrated in FIG. 18, thus indicating completion times for specific jobs (see FIGS. 23 and 24). In Mishima, it is not necessary to provide a timer for calculating a waiting period, since job processing times for specific jobs are calculated according to FIG. 18. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to modify Mishima to somehow include a "timer section" of Shimizu, since a suitable procedure for calculating the processing time of a job is already provided.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter F. Corless (Reg. No. 33,860)
Steven M. Jensen (Reg. No. 42,693)
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205

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Phone: (617) 439-4444

Customer No. 21874